

Accordingly it is respectfully solicited that these claims be allowed upon reconsideration.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) The environmentally safe method of storing and handling batches of rubber pieces salvaged from discarded tire carcasses in a bulk storage configuration obtained at low cost for compact storage of residual bulk rubber at bulk storage sites from which bulk rubber may be reclaimed in due course for preparation of rubber products, comprising in combination the steps of: cutting reclaimed tire carcasses into sets of substantially flat storable sections of tire tread strips excluding sidewalls, preparing pallets with loading platform areas of specified length and width dimensions for retaining a plurality of stacks of said substantially flat sections in a storage configuration, and stacking a plurality of the storable sections into said stacks in compact rubber-to-rubber interfacing configurations with frictional resistance against movement of the sections lateral to the pallet platform area thereby to facilitate transportation on said pallets for storing and recalling the pallets from designated storage areas of confined space.

9. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of piling said flat sections into stacks that avoid accumulation of water when stored outside in the environment.

24. (Amended) The method of bulk storage in outdoor sites of discarded tire rubber without accumulation of water comprising the steps of:

cutting rubber portions of reclaimed tire carcasses in the format into substantially constant thickness flat treaded strips excluding sidewalls, and


stacking the flat strips on pallets in a plurality of abutting rubber-to-rubber contact stacks of the treaded strips interlocked in a frictional format for withstanding lateral movement when travelling upon a loading platform of a pallet transported by a fork lift truck [for] with a rubber-to-rubber contact configuration precluding accumulation of water when stored on the pallets in bulk storage [in] at outdoor locations.

Cancel Claims 22 and 23 without prejudice.

#### CONCLUSION

The retained claims 1-21 and 24 are thus retained to put this case in condition for immediate allowance, which is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted

  
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Date: Sept. 20, 2002

Enc. Formal Drawings